## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Tadashi SAO et al.

Serial No New-Nat'l phase of

PCT/JP2005/009451

International filing date: May 24, 2005

For:

**BRANCHING PIPE JOINT AND** 

AN AIR CONDITIONER PROVIDED:

THEREWITH (As Amended)

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In accordance with MPEP 609 and 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants bring the references listed on the attached PTO-1449-Form to the Examiner's attention and request that they be considered and made of record in this application.

Japanese Utility Model Publication No. 04-97263 appears to disclose a refrigerant flow diverter having a bypass pipe.

Japanese Laid Open Publication No. 2752194 appears to disclose an air conditioner unit with switching valves.

Japanese 1998 Cooling and Heating Handbook, Air Conditioning Volume, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd. discloses information relating to installation cooling system. This publication discloses various Y-shaped branch pipes.

Prompt examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

David L. Tarnoff Reg. No. 32,383

GLOBAL IP COUNSELORS, LLP 1233 Twentieth Street, NW, Suite 700 Washington, DC 20036 (202)-293-0444

Dated: 5-30-0

(AP20 Rec'd PCT/PTO 30 MAY, 2005, 10-01)

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

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## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

of

Complete if Known		
Application Number	PC 1 (20/5 (0)4451) Q (1) Q	
Filing Date	International Date of May 24, 2005	
First Named Inventor	Tadashi SAO	
Group Art Unit		
Examiner Name		
Attorney Docket Number	DK-US040366	

(use as many sheets as necessary)

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS Name of Patentee or Applicant of Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Document Number Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY Examiner Cite No.1 Cited Document Initials Number - Kind Code2 (if known) Figures Appear US: บร US-US-US-US-US-USusus-ÚS-US-US-US-US-US-US-US-US-US-

		Foreign Patent Document			Pages, Columns, Lines, Where	
Examiner Cite No.1	Country Code <sup>3</sup> - Number <sup>4</sup> - Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	<b>T</b> <sup>6</sup>	
/M.A./		JP-04-97263-U	08-24-1992	Nishinaka		No
<del>'M.A./</del>		JP-2752194 B2	02-27-1998	Nagae		No
M.A./		JP-11-72189-A	03-16-1999	Furuta		Yes
M.A./	<u> </u>	JP-11-304297-A	11-05-1999	Suehiro et al.		Yes
M.A./		JP-2000-161807-A	06-16-2000	Yoshii		Yes
M.A./		JP-2003-35469-A	02-07-2003	Takeda		Yes
	ļ				<del></del>	

Examiner Signature	/Mohammad Ali/ (04/16/2008)	Date Considered	04/16/2008

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at <a href="www.uspto.gov">www.uspto.gov</a> or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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	Application Number	PCT/\$P2905/009454
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT	Filing Date	International Date of May 24, 2005
	First Named Inventor	Tadashi SAO
	Group Art Unit	
(use as many sheets as necessary)	Examiner Name	

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Sheet

Attorney Docket Number

OTHER PRIOR ART NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS				
Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	Translation (Yes or No)		
	1998 Cooling and Heating Installation Handbook, Air Conditioning Volume, MITSUBISHI HEAVY INDUSTRIES, LTD.	No		
		<del> </del>		
	Cite No.1	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.  1998 Cooling and Heating Installation Handbook, Air Conditioning Volume, MITSUBISHI HEAVY INDUSTRIES, LTD.		

Examiner	Date	
Signature	Considered	

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